

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 NEA-06 /051 W

----- 025745

O R 290910Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9057

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2666

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR OAU SU ET

SUBJ: REACTION OAU STATES TO ETHIOPIAN EXECUTIONS

REF: STATE 261727

1. AS REPORTED KHARTOUM 2625, NIMEIRI VISIBLY SHAKEN BY CRITICAL TURN ETHIOPIAN EVENTS. HAVING WARNED VISITING ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION LAST MONTH AGAINST HARMING HAILE SELASSIE (KHARTOUM 2474), NIMEIRI PARTICULARLY SURPRISED AND CHAGRINNED AT SUDDEN AND SUBSTANTIAL EXECUTIONS. AT SAME TIME, GOS IS CLEARLY INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA, DESPITE CONSIDERATIONS ETHIOPIAN INTERNAL SITUATION THIS SUDANESE CONCERN, COUPLED WITH DESIRE MAINTAIN CONTACTS, NO DOUBT EXPLAINS EARLY DISPATCH MINSTATE FONAFFS JAMAL MUHAMMED AHMED TO ADDIS NOV 28 WITH PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM NIMEIRI EVIDENTLY ADDRESSED TO "CHAIRMAN TEMPORARY MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL". ETHIOPIAN CHARGE BELIEVES AHMEDS MISSION LARGELY FACT-FINDING, BUT THAT NIMEIRIS MESSAGE HAS NO DOUBT BEEN ONE OF DESIRE FOR CONTINUATION GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

2. WITH NIMEIRI AND FONMIN MANSOUR KHALID ABSENT ON VISIT INDIA, AND AHMED IN ADDIS, WE DOUBT WHETHER GOS FOR MOMENT

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GIVING ANY CONSIDERATION TO SPECIFIC DEMARCHE SUGGESTED REFTTEL.

HOWEVER, NIMEIRIS EARLIER COMMENTS OF COURSE WELLL KNOWN IN
ADDIS, AND IT MAY BE THAT AHMED HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED
SOUND SIMLIAR NOTE OF CAUTION IN HANDLING HAILE SELASSIE.

3. SETTLED GOS POLICY IS TO SEEK GOOD RELATIONS WITH ANY REGIME
IN ADDIS AS LONG AS LATTER NOT UNDULY INFLUENCED BY OUTSIDE (I.E.,
COMMUNIST) POWERS. WITHIN THIS GENERAL CONTEXT, NIMEIRI REGIME
INCREASINGLY WORRIED BY OUTLOOK FOR FURTHER STRIFE IN ERITREA.
SUDANESE HAD HOPED "MEDIATE" BETWEEN ADDIS AND ELF AND,
OVER LONGER TERM, ANXIOUS UTILIZE MASSAWA AS
ADDITIONAL PORT OF ENTRY SUDANESE GOODS. NIMEIRI HAS INDICATED
TO ME HE FEARS HARDLINE APPROACH TOWARD ERITREA COULD DOMINATE
ETHIOPIAN COUNCILS WITH RESULTANT INCREASE IN TENSION ALONG
ERITREAN/SUDANESE FRONTIER. THIS WOULD ALSO PUT GOS IN
MORE DIFFICULT SPOT VIS-A-VIS NEW ETHIOPIAN REGIME.

3. SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE TRANSITTED KHARTOUM BRIEFLY
NOV 28 BUT FIRST REPORTS INDICATE HE HAD NO REPEAT NO SUBSTANTIVE
DISCUSSION WITH GOS.
BREWER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, EXECUTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KHARTO02666
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740346-0476
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974114/aaaaacof.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 261727
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 AUG 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION OAU STATES TO ETHIOPIAN EXECUTIONS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SU, ET, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005